

OLC #77-5371

John Doe

30 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Director-Management,
National Foreign Assessment Center

SUBJECT : Conversation with Dr. Edward Bentz,
Member of the Staff of the National
Transportation Policy Study
Commission, (1750 K Street, NW,
Suite 800 Phone: 254-7453)

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1. I called Dr. Bentz in response to your request that we find out precisely what the Study Commission wanted from the Agency. I opened my remarks to Dr. Bentz by saying that the Agency had initially interpreted his request for Agency participation as a request to represent ourselves as "transportation users." It appeared from [] comments on his meeting with Dr. Bentz that we may have misunderstood their interest and that in fact they were interested in CIA participation as a source of foreign intelligence for data needed to support their analytical forecast.

2. Bentz made it quite clear that the Commission's sole interest in CIA participation was to obtain foreign intelligence on energy supply and demand and on the comparative rate of development of transport technology in the US and abroad. He pointed out that their transport activity models were almost completely captive to future supplies of petroleum and petroleum products. He had been informed of our work in world energy supply and demand and wanted to get our estimates in this area to plug into the Commission's transport models. He also said that he would be interested in our judgment about the relative status of US-foreign transport technology.

3. Dr. Bentz had agreed to provide [] with a set of questions that he hoped the Agency would be

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able to answer. He is presently preparing these questions and would expect to have them available before mid-December. Basically, these questions will identify those elements of energy supply and demand that they need to operate their transport models.

4. I thanked Dr. Bentz for the information and indicated that I thought the Agency would be able to be forthcoming on this matter. I indicated that we would internally review the locus of Agency actions on their request and might well fix it in the Office of Economic Research. It would also be important for us, however, to notify our Legislative Counsel of our activity on this program.

5. It is entirely likely that we could do a better job for the Commission if someone from OER/DAC could work with them in formulating the Commission request. We will proceed in whatever manner seems acceptable to D/NEAC.

Executive Officer
Office of Economic Research

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(30 November 1977)